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*A Century of Empire.* By SIR HERBERT MAXWELL. (London: Edward Arnold, 1909. Vol. I. 1801-1832. Pp. 352.)

When an author places a verse of Kipling's "Recessional" upon his title page and dedicates his work "with affectionate regard to my leader in many a hard fought campaign, the Right Hon. Arthur James Balfour, M.P.," one knows that the work will be written from a conservative point of view and this expectation is not disappointed in reading Maxwell's interesting book. He defends the Tories frequently from the attacks made upon them by Sir Spencer Walpole in his *History of England* and, especially, places the career of Lord Castlereagh in a far more favorable light than most historians. The work is not, however, one of an unbending partisan; but frankly admits mistakes of the Tories and gives due meed of praise to many of the Whigs and their measures. The writer has set himself to write a political history and does not linger long on social and economic phases. His style is clear and interesting, though sometimes he sacrifices syntax in his desire to produce an effect of vividness. Good use is made of the *Creevey Papers* and access has been had to the Salisbury manuscripts, which throw a new light on some portions of the narrative. In general, the allotment of space to various events is well done, though too much time is spent over the unhappy marital life of George IV. The author is a great admirer of Wellington and Nelson, and the accounts of their campaigns are very well told. The narrative of the war of 1812 is naturally somewhat prejudiced and inaccurate. The setting off of the capitulation of Fort Mobile against the battle of New Orleans is rather ridiculous, and no good account of the causes of the war, nor of the treaty of Ghent is given. On page 184, Hale is a misprint for Hull. The work is provided with brief footnotes, where the newer authorities are used or reference is made to disputed points, and there is a comprehensive, but not exhaustive, index. The excellence of the typography and the engravings of six of the important characters of the period add to the attractiveness of the book. One asks, however, why no portrait of Pitt or of Wellington was included. Sir Herbert Maxwell has been so successful in presenting a fresh picture of the times that his later volumes will be eagerly awaited and his work may be commended, as a well-written and clear narrative of political events, usually accurate in its scholarship and yet popular enough for the general reader.

B. C. STEINER.